## The Independent.

J. MILTON UNANGST, Proprietor. **Published** every Saturday Morning at No. 283 Glenwood Ave., Bloomfield, N. J.

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THE INDEPENDENT solicits contributions from the general public on any subject-po litical, religious, educational, or socialso long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the our-

rent week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1891.

OUR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN. The readers of THE INDEPENDENT need not to be reminded of the interest which it has constantly taken in the young men and boys of the town; nor how in its editorials and the communications frequently published, and in extracts from other papers bearing on this subject, it has tried to impress on the people of Bloomfield the greatness of the work lying ready before them, and the rich harvest they may reap if they will but enter into the field. To-day we call their attention to two articles which will be found in our columns; one communication from the Rev. R. S. Carlin, Rector of Christ Church; the other from the Illustrated Christian Weekly on "The Church and Children," by the Rev. Edward Judson. The letter, although written more directly on city eyangelization, has much that is ap plicable to our town and churches.

Mr. Carlin's "Some Suggestions Con eerning Our Duty and Responsibility to the Young Men of the Town" will undoubtedly attract attention, and we hope that it may produce some profitable discussion and practical results.

#### NUISANCES.

Considerable complaint has been made of the dumping of refuse in vacant lots near the centre of the town, and Inspector W. B. Corby has done his best the half-burned papers, etc., from Huntington's store were dumped in J. B Harvey's lot on Glenwood Avenue, next

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUBJECTS THAT INTEREST MANY OF THE PEOPLE OF BLOOMFIELD

iome Suggestions Concerning Our Duty and Responsibility to the Young Men of Our Town.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT:

SIR: Your valuable paper has done much to bring forth'a fair statement of public opinion. The case of the young men affords ample room, for discussion, in this town as well as in other places. The changed conditions of life and the growth of our institutions have not always been considered from all points. Recreation is a topic upon which much may be said and written, and it is to that topic we now call the attention of the reader.

History tells us, that the old States owe their success to the energy of their founders. When men were obliged to gain their livelshood from the stony soll of New England, in the Pilgrim Fathers' days, there was little need of places of recreation. By the time they had gone over their fields, they were in splendid shape to take nature's sweet restorer to make them ready for the next day's toil. But prosperity and ingenuity have placed the country under different conditions. On account of the various methods used in the commercial world and the vast resource of our land, we have gone ahead of the old-fashioned way of carrying on business. Except in solated cases men do not go about exchanging with their immediate neighbors wheat for shoes. But business is carried on by a system of exchange which has given rise to new conditions of life. The invention of machinery has also helped to lighten labor. So we find, that our young men after gaining means of support have also a little time on their hands for recreation. What to do with this time is the question. Many are employed all day in a mental capacity so that they need physical exercise. The establishing of reading-rooms and libraries does not always meet the case. Some have no taste for reading; and others who have the inclination are mentally weary. A place erected for proper amusement and judicious exercise would do much to improve the

But how go about erecting such churches have attached to them large houses, where there are gymnasiums and baths and appliances for harmless games. to Dodd's livery stables. In the evening | We have been told that such 'houses de h this rubbish was set on fire, and all screat amount of good. The Y. M. C. P.

and much good comes from the effort. Our country has always be n noted for its liberality and enligh enment. But we have much to learn. leave the young like a neglected then when habit forms, becau such neglect, we wonder where child obtained such dreadful manne

In a recent attempt made in furnish places for young p four houses have been established by well meaning people, where profitable eve-

nings may be spent. We are informed that the cost of running one such place after starting, was no more than the amount ispent by by a certain man in table decorations when he gave a dinner to his triends.

We believe in the goodness of life. We feel assured that there is not a man who does not prefer the better side of our humanity to the base side, if all particular views could be gotten out of reach, and the subject placed before us in the true light, much might be done in the way of elevating our young men. Let us have in THE INDEPENDENT suggestions. Tet us have no party spirit. Let us seek to do nothing but good. In the combined wisdom of this town, we feel sure that some better method could be employed than that of hiring policemen to keep our streets free from loungers, to tell them to "move on," but who could do so, with more grace, if there was some place to receive them.

Men live through viciousness and ignorance, but we are inclined to think more through ignorance and misguided effort than through viciousness. Let us keep our young men then by being in touch with them and helping them to stand on their feet like true men.

R. S. CARLIN. BLOOMFIELD, May 12.

#### The Victorious Banner.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT: SIR: "Tis an old but very apt saying that "chickens come home to roost." The MSS. of the poem "Victorious Banner" which appeared in THE INDEPEN-DENT on the 2d inst., has been in my possession for nearly thirty years. I picked it up with other papers while on one of the raids mentioned in my war narrative. Who the author was I never knew, but it is very evident that the sentiment expressed in the original failed to find a responsive echo in the soul. He was one of many who could never allow the word "conquered" to be coupled with that flag. I hardly think

ever thought it would find its w. print, but now that they have b peared side by side in comparison Lover of the glorious unconquered Il thank the author for the

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#### profits in this way. Many of them do, CHURCH AND CHILDREN.

By Church I do not mean the Spiritual Church, that vague and majestic concept that glimmers here and there in Holy Scripture and reminds us that all souls, dwelling on this green earth or in any other world, who turn reverently and obediently toward what light they have, belong to one flock and have one Shepherd. I mean rather what is often called the local church-a definite group of Christians who meet habitually at one place to break the bread-and take the cup in memory of their Lord, to sing hymns to His praise, to offer prayers to His name, to ponder His teachings, and to endeavor to live His life over after Him. These groups are not far apart in our great city, and they contain within themselves the potency for the cure of every social ill. Each of these churches has a circumjacent community pressing against it from every side, and this community, is largely made up of children

Now the key to the solution of the hard problem of city evangelization lies in the puny hand of the little child. Who has not stood aghast and felt the chill of despair creep around his heart as he has stopped in one of our thoroughfares and watched the great tide of foreigners streaming ashere from some emigrant ship-alien men, women and children chattering in a strange language, and bearing uncouth burdens on their heads and shoulders! They have come to stay. In solid phalanx they take possession of wide stretches of our city. They form an impregnable mass of humanity swayed by-un-American and un-evangelical ideas and habits, at the mercy either of sacramentarianism or materialism. Those that are Christians have old-world notions of an organic relation between Church and State. Their views and practices regarding the Sabbath and temperance as well as other social questions are antagonistic to ours. Our churches retreat before this inflowing tide, seeking a congenial environment in the more remote and favored portions of our island. If our purpose is to build up our church, this is of course the right course to take. But if our aim is to change the character of our community, then we should bring to bear upon these dense masses our best Gospel appliances. And our most effective measures will be preventive work will be among the children. Alteracase be slow and prosaic, but they will

do not wonder wealthy people are si The foreigners that come among us and cautious. Like an old rat that ard very prolific. The children far outnumber the parents. The law Healts the been nipped in many traps, they a

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ed that no law fixing the number of children. Again the children, in the natural order of events, will live longer than the parents, since they are younger. So that this foreign child-life extends farther in time as well as in space. The old firds will soon drop off the perch, but the young brood will live on and on. And then the children are accessible, while the parents are not. They want to learn our language, and are allured by the life and joy and music in our churches and Sunday-schools. Besides, the children are malleable, while the parents are inflexible. If the character of a community is to be changed at all it must be through the children.

The Sunday-school, then, is perhaps he strongest weapon used by the ch n city evangelization. The children often drawn from families which Gospel can touch in no other way. Then if the Sunday-school is pervaded by an evangelistic spirit, and is not merely a class in sacred geography where the children are taught the distance from Jerusalem to Jericho, but if Christ is presented to their young minds as a personal Saviour, many of them will be sure to accept Him. Then they will want to join your church. In many cases the parents will interpose no objections. Then the children will come little foreign children my best members. They love to attend all the services. They sit in front. They join heartily in the singing. They are like the tender

grass springing out of the earth by elear of filling shiping after rain. In other cases the parents may forbid their children to join your church. Even then you have storted a current of new spiritual life that flows back into the bosom of the old state churches; and in either event the character of the community is radically changed for the better.

But the Sunday-school alone is inadequate. The sessions are too short and too far apart. Currents of sin and worldliness sweep between the Sundays and wash away holy impressions. What g captain headway would we make in teaching arithmetic or geography, if the lesson came once a week, and occupied half an hour, and was taught by such incompetent, untrained, and unpaid teachers as are to be found in our Sunday-schools! Is it strange that our youth are growing up in ignorance of our sacred books? The study of the Bible is ruled out of our public schools. Family prayer is becoming obsolete even in Christian homes, and where it exists, it is often ed, and conducted in a desultory and humdrum wire of the fate that had befallen him sip of his which will embrace children from three Cal., says the Omaha Bee. "Is he

is the providential opportunity which the church has of gathering them daily, excepting Saturday and Sunday. Let her employ a devout and trained kindergartner, who shall not only train the child's mind and body with the charming symbolic exercises of the kindergarten; but will also tell each day a little of the story of the life of Christ, and also teach the child Christian prayers and hymns. Let the kindergarten be supplemented upward by a primary school embracing children from seven to nine, and downward by a day nursery including children from infancy up to three, and so let the church take the whole educational charge of the child from infancy up to the age of nine or ten, when it can enter the public school in advance of its class, but will have had during the first plastic years of its life the constant touch of a consecrated Christian

All this, it may be said, will cost

good deal of money. But consider that there will be no expense for the erection or rental of buildings. The average Sunday-school room makes an admirable room for a day-school. And what a pity it is that the church edifices should be idle so much of the time! If a business firm should erect an expensive building; and use it only during six or seven hours a week, could it expect to succeed? And yet all over Manhattan Island we have vast enclosed spaces, which are actually in use for only a few hours each week. The rest of the time they serve only to circumscribe the cheerful habitations of men, and are occupied by mice and silence and gloom. And then the Young Men's Christian Association comes along, and instead of utilizing the sacred buildings already in existence by housing in them its benevolent activities, it proceeds, at enormous expense, to erect all over the country another set of sacred building. What a godsend it would be, if the stately church edifice should become each day a school, and be filled with the joyous crescent life of childhood. The salaries of teachers would have to be met by the systematic gifts of wealthy Christians. It is easy to bring against the rich the wholesale charge of covetousness. But I believe that here in New York there is immense treasure held in suspense and ready to be used, when the possessors are convinced that their gifts will do more good than harm, when channels are laid and educational; our most enduring open through which their benevolence may flow for the actual relief of suffering and for the permanent amelioration of mankind. So much money is wasted in charity and in missionary work that

> very wary. But let wealth n women know that under their eyes and in their own church there is to be such a school as I describe, and you will be surprised to see how readily they will subscribe for its support. The incidental expenses can easily be met by tuition fees. The poorest children gladly pay

five cents a week. But besides its Sunday-school, its day nursery, its kindergarten and its primary school, a church that is at work in a mission neighborhood will feel the need of a little home for children, where it may take the entire care of waifs that have been unearthed by its missionaries. and also a house in .the country, where it can furnish fresh air to its children in the summer. In all these ways the church may embrace the child-life that comes within its reach: All this educational and philanthropic work will naturally be on a small scale, being adapted to the eircumscribed wants of the local church, and when one contemplates the oceanic character of ignorance and vice and misery in our great cities, one will instinctively exclaim, regarding such scanty provisions, what are they among so many? But such work is always contagious. When once a single church has transmuted these ideas into enduring reality on a scale however small, then every other church, on the principle of holy emulation, will go and do ikewise. To crystalize existing social tendencies is a swift and easy task, but

to reverse vicious tendencies, or to originate good ones, is toilsome and prosaic. It is said of a reform that it always goes through three stages. Eirst it is laughed at. Then it is said to be contrary to religion. And in the third place, every one knows it.

Say not, the struggle not availeth, The enemy faints not, nor faileth; And as things have been they remain

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars. It may be in you smoke concealed, And, but for you, possess the field. For while the tired waves, valuly breaking, Seem here no painful inch to gain. Par back, through creeks and inlets making

Comes silent, flooding in, the main. And not by Eastern windows only, When daylight comes, comes in the light; In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly, But westward, look, the land is bright." Edward Judson in the Illustrated Chris-

tion Weekly.

A half-unconscious operator, with his skull crushed and the blood pouring from several gaping wounds, vainly endeavoring to to tell his comrades on the e er death's rattle cut short his life. ren, the church must have her day- Such was the picture at the Southern schools. Let her have a kindergarten, Pacific telegraph station at Los Angeles, s believed to seven. These are too young to be ad- drunk?" asked an operator, as the inmitted into the public schools, and here strument sounded a jargon. Attempts

to call the operator to his i The unintelligible click of the ments ceased. J. A. Seiffert, the or, was unconscious at his ker vitality had ebbed away, and none boys on the line knew that the the instruments was the vain end of a dying man to tell his fellow of his cowardly and brutal murder It is probable that the incohere and dashes may never be tran the circumstances of the terrible never be explained, but not a that wire will ever forget the h attempted, in the shadow of de tell of the robbery of his office . flendish assault upon the dat telegrapher. When discovered dead, and the office had been me a few dollars by burglars

The Altruist Society of Mont gan the distribution of flowers poor in New York on Tuesday at and will continue to do so They will also during the summe children to the town twice a wee outing.

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An abstract of the Annual Report the Secretary of State in pursua STATEMENT JANUARY L

erris & Essex 1st. Mtge.R.R.

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